

# Ramblin' NoDaks

April 2017

## GREETINGS ONE AND ALL

Here we are — at the beginning of another Rally Season already — the winter seemed to fly by once again...at least for those of us who didn't have to shovel snow! It's time to get the motor homes out and readied for another fun-filled season.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will find all the information you need to know about the May Rally, which will be, once again, held in Mandan. Please be sure to get your registration in by the deadline...APRIL 27th..

This summer is looking like a great line-up of Rallies — and a big thank you to everyone who has come to the plate and agreed to host. The Rally Schedule is located in this Newsletter — you may want to clip it out and keep it handy!

As always, I am more than happy to receive recipes, jokes, etc. You can email them to me at:

grandmagj3@gmail.com

In order to keep our records as up-to-date as possible, I would appreciate your cooperation in letting me know of ANY changes since last year — new coach, new address, etc

Looking forward to seeing you all at one of the Rallies!

Margaret



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON THE JUNE RALLY

The June Rally will be at Meier's on June 8-12 and we will then travel to Belfield to the Richard Farm. On Tuesday, June 13th, we will be in Medora as a group. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR GETTING YOUR OWN TICKETS TO THE MUSICAL.** Tickets for the Medora Musical will go on sale on **April 18th.** Our group is planning to go on Tuesday, June 13th. When you call to get your tickets, please tell them that you are with the Ramblin' NoDaks. I have seats reserved but you must call and get your tickets and also they will assign a seat within our group. The number to call for reservations is: 1-800-633-6721. They will hold our reservation to sit together until May 13th at which time they will be released. We also plan to go to the Pitchfork Fondue that evening. You can buy your ticket for that at the same time or you can purchase it once you get to Medora on that day. If you have any questions, please call John or Pam Meier.

## THIS FROM PRESIDENT JOHN

Greetings from Southwest North Dakota!

Here we go...another year of rallies is fast approaching. Snowbirds are heading back north. This year, I think the geese actually beat them up here! It's been quite the winter and I'm sure we are all ready to get our motor homes out and get together.

We offer our condolences to the Zimmerman family. Quentin Zimmerman passed away this winter. He and Gay were members and his daughter and son-in-law, David and Michelle are also members of the Ramblin' NoDaks.

Our first rally starts in May in Mandan. There is more information in the newsletter about this. Our June rally involves our trip to Medora. Please see the write-up in this newsletter about purchasing your tickets.

A reminder of the upcoming conventions. The 96th FMCA International Convention in Indianapolis, IN will be held on July 12-15th. The Midwest Area Convention will be held at the Amana Colonies in Amana, IA on August 9-12th. If you would like more information, please check in your FMCA magazine or contact me. We attended the convention in Amana Colony last year and the venue, food and the colony history was great.

We attended the 95th International Convention in Chandler, AZ along with several other Ramblin' NoDak members. We learned that there may be a big change coming for FMCA. In July at the Indianapolis convention, there will be a vote to determine if FMCA will now encompass all types of RV's. This would include travel trailers and 5th wheels. If this is approved, each chapter will vote to approve or disapprove within their chapter. I personally think this is a great idea. It's about the people, not the vehicle. We will talk more about this at our chapter meeting in May.

A reminder that election of officers will take place at the August meeting. I know there are many in our group who would be good leaders and I'm hoping that you will step up to the jobs. It's always good to get new ideas. Please contact me or any of the nominating committee (John Ringland, Ardell Lynne, Karen Grimm) if you would be willing to take an office.

We still need Rally Hosts for 2018. We would like to travel to your neck of the woods!

I am excited to welcome 3 new members to our group. Welcome to John & Lori Stenerson from Fargo, Welcome to Larry & Leone Roth from Glen Ullin, Welcome to Tim & Patty O'Neill from Fargo. We look forward to meeting you all and having you as part of our group.

I'm always looking for new ideas to make our chapter better. Please feel free to contact me with any ideas or comments that you may have.

As always, my goal is to have everyone attend at least one rally throughout the summer. We have a great group and I look forward to your attendance and fellowship.

For now, God Bless. See you in Mandan!

John Meier, President

## 2017 RALLY SCHEDULE

**MAY 4-7** —Mandan—hosted by Sommers, Sommers  
and Fritz

**JUNE 8-11**—Scranton (combined and rolling)  
hosted by Meiers—we will then roll to  
Richard's farm and travel by car to Medora

**JULY 6-9**— Canada—hosted by Jaegers and others

**AUGUST 3-6**—Bottineau—hosted by Wettlaufers

**SEPTEMBER 7-10**—Mobridge, SD—hosted by Sommers  
and Sommers

Keep this schedule handy as you plan



Remember to check our website for information and forms. It has been recently updated. If you have forgotten the password, please contact our webmaster, Pam Meier, to receive it.

[www.ramblinnodaks.com](http://www.ramblinnodaks.com)

## OFFICERS FOR 2016

President	John Meier
Vice-President	Gene Grimm
Secretary	Becky Sommers
Treasurer	Pam Meier
Parliamentarian	Karen Grimm
FMCA National Director	Duane Hellman
FMCA Asst. Director	Larry Gjerstad
MAC Representative	Gene Grimm
Wagon Master	Duane Hellman
Security	Bill Sommers
Chaplains	Jenean Baumann, Alice Gunter, Shirley Sommers
Nominating Committee	John Ringland, Ardell Lynne, Karen Grimm
Web Master	Pam Meier
Newsletter Editor	Margaret Gjerstad



**Family Motor Coach Association**  
Enhancing the motorhome lifestyle!

Greetings to all. Hope your winter went well, whether you stayed at your home, traveled in your coach or went to a second home somewhere. We spent our winter in Arizona and as usual, enjoyed it very much.

This March we were able to attend the 95th International Convention at Rawhide Western Town, in Chandler, AZ, which for us, was just a 26 mile drive. This was FMCA's first convention in this area and it turned out to be a huge success with between 2500-2600 coaches on site, plus hundreds of drive-in "Snowbirds" like us, who spend the winter in this area. With such a good turn-out, this may lead to scheduling more events in this area in the future.

As we all ready our coaches for the summer, whether just coming off of winter travels or taking them out of storage, we want to remember our loyal FMCA sponsors. This year we have some new ones again. One is Guardian Glass. They are affiliated with about 3000 glass repair shops throughout the country. Continental Tire has also joined us. So keep them and all of our previous sponsors in mind.

As everything else in our lives keep changing, things in FMCA keep changing as well. Our biggest problem is membership retention and growth. Our Executive Board has done much studying, surveys, membership input, etc. to try to find solutions. The most popular outcome has been to open our membership to "All RV Owners" not just motorized RV's. Several things are changing in the RV industry. In our FMCA membership, the average age of the members is now 71, where the average age of all RV owners is 48 years of age. So, we would be exposed to a much larger, younger crowd. Also, of all the RV's sold last year, only 12.7% were motor homes, so here, too, we would be exposed to a much larger field of potential members. As Jim Vitte, our Midwest area Vice President said in his last newsletter, "FMCA is not about the equipment, it is about the People" At the next Governing Board meeting, July 12, 2017, we will be voting on this, so in the meantime let your National Director know your feelings and thoughts on this.

That meeting, On July 12, is at the 96th International Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, July 12-15, 2017. At that gathering we will be electing a new slate of National Officers. The candidates are: Nat. Pres -Jon Walker; Nat. Sr. VP -Rett Porter, Nat. Sec—Gaye Young (she is the current Nat. Sec.); Nat. Treas. (there are two) - John Reynolds and Frant Tader. Also for the Midwest Area we will be electing a new Nat, VP. So far we have Gary Milnor (current MAC VP) from Box Elder, SD, If anyone is interested in this position, nominations are open until April 30th, 2017, so you still have time to "throw your hat into the ring."

Safe Travels to everyone, Duane Hellman, National Director

## FROM GENE GRIMM, OUR MAC REPRESENTATIVE

This report finds us in our semi-annual season switch over (from South to North). I've just completed the most challenging motorcycle trip of my life — called 40 to Phoenix. A group of approximately 100 Honda Gold Wings started in North Carolina en-route to the home office in Phoenix, AZ. I allowed 2 days to get to my 773 mile rendezvous point in Amarillo, TX, since the rest of the trip would be demanding. At Sweetwater, I encountered hail, gale force winds, torrential rains and flooded roads. I decided to stay the night to hide from the storm, but the forecast was the same for the next morning so I tried to skirt the storm. That didn't work so I was pounded by hail and totally soaked as waves from the flooded roads washed completely over the bike. After that storm was behind me, I tried to stay in Lubbock but the room rate for an old, run-down Howard Johnson Motel was \$190. plus tax. It seems there was a concert in town and everything was booked. So, I decided to ride the final 120 miles into Amarillo. It was 41° there, and I was still soaked and ultimately the coldest I had been in years. I could hardly talk or sign into the motel in Amarillo because I was shaking so badly. A 1/2 hour hot shower made things right. On the group ride into Phoenix we encountered below freezing temperatures, ultra-high winds and snow storms in mountain passes with snow accumulation on the roads. Somehow, we all made it through without any accidents. After a day at the home office, I left early for the 1200 mile Edinburg return trip. Those days were dry but featured some of the highest winds I had ever driven through. The total trip was 3030 miles, most of which was done during 5 travel days. At Edinburg, Karen had been preparing for our northern departure. It will be a busy 3-day effort to get ready for our ND relocation.

That will put us into a different phase of our lives — the Ramblin' NoDak phase. We look forward to seeing everyone again and to enjoy some great planned outings. The MAC Rally will again be in the Amana Colonies near Cedar Rapids, Iowa on August 9th through the 12th. There is a lot to do there, delicious food to enjoy, and great places to explore. Perhaps more of you will elect to join us at Amana this summer!

Best Regards, Gene Grimm, MAC Rep



### A LITTLE HUMOR FROM JOHN

Always Wear Underwear ...

Always wear underwear in public, especially when working under a vehicle. An elderly couple drove their car to the shopping center, only to have their car break down in the parking lot. The man told his wife to carry on with her shopping while he fixed the car.

The wife returned later to see a small group of people near the car. On closer inspection, she saw a pair of hairy legs protruding from under the chassis.

Unfortunately, although the man was in shorts, his lack of underpants turned his private parts into flaringly public ones. Unable to stand the embarrassment, she dutifully stepped forward and quickly put her hand up his shorts and tucked everything back into place.

Upon standing back up, she looked across the top of the car and found herself staring at her husband, who was idly standing by watching.

The service mechanic, however, had to have three stitches in his forehead!



Becky is having her Breast Cancer Rummage Sale June 15-16. If you have items to donate, please bring them to the May Rally.

Thanks!



REMEMBER TO ORDER YOUR MEDORA MUSICAL TICKETS!!!



## **Meeting in Mandan**

**May 4-7**

**Midway Lanes**

**3327 Memorial Highway**

**Mandan ND**

**Hosts: Ernie & Frances Fritz, Mike & Shirley Sommers, Bill & Becky Sommers**

**May 4 (Thurs): Arrive and get parked. All meals on your own.**

**May 5 (Fri): 8:30 Breakfast. Rolls, toast, fruit, coffee, and juice.**

**Please bring a can of soup for supper.**

**10:00 Tour (Still trying to get one set up. No firm commitment at this time.)**

**Lunch on your own.**

**Afternoon free for rummaging, shopping, golf, casino or whatever.**

**4:00 Happy Hour. Bring snack to pass.**

**6:00 Supper. Soup and Sandwich. Bring your own sandwich, drink and a pan of bars or cookies to share.**

**7:00 Wacky Bowling (pay on your own)**

**May 6 (Sat): 8:30 Breakfast. Rolls, fruit, toast, bagels, juice and coffee.**

**9:00 Meeting**

**Rest of morning free and lunch on your own. Afternoon free.**

**4:00 Happy Hour**

**6:00 Supper. Scalloped potatoes, ham, corn, dinner roll, ice cream**

**Games in the evening**

**May 7 (Sun): 9:00 Church Service (Shirley Sommers)**

**9:30 Breakfast: Scrambled eggs, sausage, toast, coffee and juice.**

**PLEASE BRING PLATES AND UTENSILS TO ALL MEALS. THANKS!**

**Say our goodbyes until June.**



Above

The Arizona Ramblin' NoDaks at one of their monthly luncheons .. Baumanns and Brackins had to leave before the photo was taken.

To the Right

The Texas Ramblin' NoDaks at one of their gatherings..



**REGISTRATION FORM FOR MANDAN RALLY—MAY 4-7**

**Please send registrations to Becky Sommers, 2214 Harding Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58501  
by APRIL 27th**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Rally Fee \$ 5.00

Building Fee (paid by club) 0

Meals \$6.00 per person x \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_